



JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF  
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# MEDIA ADVISORY

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## **Public Hearing to Focus on Draft Recommendations of California Blue Ribbon Commission on Children in Foster Care**

### ***Focus on How Courts and Child Welfare Partners Can Better Serve Youth and Families in Foster Care***

San Francisco – The California Blue Ribbon Commission on Children in Foster Care is holding public hearings on its draft recommendations for improving foster care outcomes. Appointed in 2006 by the Chief Justice, the commission was given two years to identify ways for courts and their child welfare partners to better serve children and families in foster care

Dependency courts have oversight for the safety and well-being of approximately 80,000 children in California's foster care system. Decisions made in the courtroom have profound and lasting effects on children and families, including where a child will live and with whom.

The state's dependency courts currently wrestle with overwhelming caseloads, crowded dockets and inadequate information. Hearings average only 5-10 minutes, and children and parents do not routinely have a voice in court.

The commission's draft recommendations focus on: prevention and permanency, court reforms, collaboration between the courts and other agencies, and funding.

**What: A public hearing on recommendations for foster care reform**

**Who: Foster youth, parents and caregivers  
Dependency court judges and attorneys  
Child welfare administrators  
Philanthropists**

**When: Wednesday, May 14, 2008, 10 am – 3 pm**

**Where: Administrative Office of the Courts, Milton Marks Auditorium  
455 Golden Gate Avenue, Lower Level, San Francisco 94102**

*Advance interviews can be arranged with those who will be testifying.*